

Joseph L. and Catherine Kirk House  
101 Halleck Place  
Llyswn Neighborhood  
Altoona  
Blair County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5889

HABS

PA

7-ALTO

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
JOSEPH L. AND CATHERINE KIRK HOUSE

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Location: 101 Halleck Place

Date of Erection: 1906

Description: This two-story, wood frame, side-gable house has a gabled ell in front next to a one-story porch. Another gabled extension with a chimney is on the west side of the house. Both of these minor gables have cornice returns. Large, square "cottage" windows on the first floor front have small rectangular lights above. The exterior of the house is in fairly original condition, including the original drop siding, but the front porch has been altered. The original columns were round and tapered.

History: Flora Neff Spence once remarked to the current owners of this house that she observed its construction in 1906, the same year her house was being built at 312 Coleridge Ave.; the contractor for both was P. W. Finn. She also remembered that lumber salvaged from an old church kept its cost down to the reasonable sum of \$1,000. Joseph L. and Catherine Kirk bought this lot in 1906 for \$350, and although city directories never show them living here, Mrs. J. L. Kirk was taxed for an unspecified house and lot in Llyswen in 1907. Joseph, who died in 1918, was an electrician. In 1924 his widow sold the property for \$5,300 to Alexander Stewart, a letter carrier. Following a sheriff's sale in 1942, the house changed hands several times before Hartford Pearce, loan manager for Commercial Credit Corporation, acquired it in 1946. He and his wife, Eleanor, lived here for several years, then rented the house out before selling it to the present owners, Louis and Anna Leopold, in 1954. Louis is a second-generation Llyswener. Anna was raised in Juniata; her mother taught at Baker School around 1915.

Sources: Maps: 1920, 1932, 1951. City directories. Tax records. Deed books: 168/475, 321/306, 465/613, 472/114, 476/299, 498/219, 536/516, 694/454. Interview: Louis and Anna Leopold, 101 Halleck Place, July 22, 1989; correspondence, August 16, 1990.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llyswen (HABS No. PA-5787) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.